

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 7 and amend the claims as shown in the attached listing of claims.

Listing of claims:

1. (Amended) A method for allowing arbitrary protocols to be added or plugged into a ~~middleware-based~~ distributed application utilizing middleware for communication without accessing the source code for the middleware or producing a new version of the middleware source code, comprising the steps of:

providing a first computer executing middleware, one or more transport protocols and first application software, the first application software being part of the distributed application;

providing a second computer executing second application software, the second application software being part of the distributed application;

providing a connection bridge for communicating between the one or more transport protocols and the middleware of the first computer;

as a result of communication between the first application software and the second application software, generating said connection bridge obtaining an action requests from by at least

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one transport protocol of the one or more transport protocols, the action request including a protocol connection identifier;

sending the action request to the connection bridge;

said connection bridge notifying said middleware that an action request is ready to have an action performed; and

said connection bridge transferring said protocol connection identifier to said middleware.

2 (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one transport protocol is such that the middleware is not configured to directly communicate with said at least one transport protocol. ~~does not use the same O/S primitives as any existing internal middleware protocol.~~

3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 including, wherein said connection bridge further communicates with multiple protocol instances and different types of protocols.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1 ~~including,~~ wherein said connection bridge further communicates with ~~replacing the existing internally supported~~ transport protocols of the middleware.

5. (Original) The method claim 1, further including performing said steps in an object-oriented programming language.

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6. (Original) The method of claim 1, including implementing said connection bridge by utilizing a synchronization primitive and FIFO queue.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, including implementing said connection bridge by utilizing ~~the~~ a selection O/S primitive.

8. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication between the first application software and the second application software comprises executable code.

9. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the communication between the first application software and the second application software further comprises an invocation of an object residing at the second computer by the first application software and the sending of the object to the first application software by the second application software.

10. (New) The method of claim 9, wherein the first application software is a client software and the second application software is a server software.

11. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the second computer is an embedded computer.

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